

Martha Jane Coleman Southwick

1850-1950 Lehi Centennial Biography

Martha Jane Coleman Southwick, the daughter of Prime and Sarah Thornton Coleman, was born in Hannock Co. Illinois, September 15, 1843. She was born during the trying persecutions which the Saints passed through in Illinois, and suffered in connection with her parents.

At the time of the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum, her family was living on the Hyrum Smith farm. While there, her mother and sister died of typhoid fever.

In 1850, the family immigrated to Utah with the David Evans Company and came to Lehi in 1851, making it her home. She was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints In May 1857, by Samuel White, and confirmed the same time by Thomas Green. She was married to William Southwick on October 20, 1859.

To this couple were born six children: William E.; Samuel H.; George F.; Mary Ann; Rebecca; and Joseph.

She acted as a nurse for a number of years, then in 1896 passed an examination and was granted a diploma to be a midwife, which occupation she followed up to a few days before her death. During this time, she attended 585 women.

She passed through many trying ordeals in the early history of Lehi, in helping to maintain herself and family. She was cheerful and took delight in helping others.

She was a kind and loving mother. She died November 13, 1906, full of faith in the Gospel of Christ.